

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, EFIN, PFOR, ES

SUBJECT:SECURITY SITUATION AND OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED WITH
THE IDB MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

1. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOP-
MENT BANK MET IN RESERVED SESSION ON APRIL 22 AND EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY FOR THE FORTHCOMING IDB MEETING IN
SAN SALVADOR AND THE DELAYS IN COMPLETION OF HOTELS TO
HOUSE DELEGATES AND SPECIAL GUESTS. IDB PRESIDENT, ORTIZ
MENA, NOTING THAT THE MEETING IN EL SALVADOR WOULD GIVE THE
TERRORISTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN WORLD PUBLICITY,
STRONGLY SUGGESTED SHIFTING THE SITE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY,
EVEN THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS MIGHT STRENGTHEN OPPOSI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 093806

TION TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF THE HOTEL
PROBLEM, IT WAS FELT THAT INVITATIONS TO SOME 500 SPECIAL
GUESTS (PRIVATE BANKERS, ETC.) WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED.
ADDITIONALLY, ORTIZ MENA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IDB'S
LIABILITY SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ITS SPECIAL GUESTS.

2. EXCEPT FOR THE BOLIVIAN, LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTORS AND

ALTERNATES WERE ADAMANTLY IN FAVOR OF HOLDING THE MEETING IN EL SALVADOR UNLESS THAT GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO POSTPONE OR CANCEL. THIS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE ASSURED THEM WAS NOT THE CASE. THE BRAZILIAN DIRECTOR SUGGESTED AN

OUTSIDE EXPERT INVESTIGATE THE HOTEL SITUATION, AND THE DIRECTORS FROM CANADA, GERMANY AND JAPAN FELT THAT THE BOARD WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER BECAUSE OF THE HOTEL SITUATION. THE CANADIAN DIRECTOR FAVORED POSTPONEMENT OF THE MEETING. THE US TEMPORARY ALTERNATE DIRECTOR RESTRICTED HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION TO ASKING QUESTIONS TO ELICIT AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE.

3. THERE IS YET ANOTHER ASPECT THAT THE USG MUST CONSIDER AND THAT IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS RAMIFICATIONS OF AN ALL OUT EFFORT BY THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO GUARANTEE SECURITY FOR THE MEETING. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN GOING AHEAD WITH THE CONFERENCE, WE DO NOT WANT TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF UNNECESSARILY ENDANGERING US OFFICIALS OR BEING INVOLVED IN A SITUATION WHICH WILL RESULT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

4. COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS ARE URGENTLY REQUESTED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS TO HELP US MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE VARIOUS EQUITIES AT STAKE.

A. THE SECURITY SITUATION: WHAT WOULD BE THE RISK TO US OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE IDB MEETING? WHAT WOULD BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 093806

POTENTIAL RISK TO THE SECRETARY OF TREASURY, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS? WHAT IS THE CAPABILITY OF THE SALVADORAN SECURITY FORCES TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE DELEGATES AND THE MEETINGS? WHAT IS THE CAPACITY OF THE POPULAR LIBERATION FORCES OR ANY OTHER TERRORIST ELEMENT TO STAGE AN INCIDENT IN SPITE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY EFFORTS?

B. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: WILL HOTEL CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED BE COMPLETED BY MAY 30? WILL THE HOTELS BE ADEQUATELY STAFFED? HOW WILL THE NEW STAFFING BEAR ON THE SECURITY SITUATION? WHAT DEGREE OF SECURITY IS POSSIBLE FOR DELEGATES RESIDING IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES?

C. HUMAN RIGHTS: WHAT WILL BE THE HUMAN RIGHTS RAMIFICATIONS OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE SECURITY FOR THE CONFERENCE? WILL WHOLESAL PREVENTIVE DETENTION BE UTILIZED? HOW EXTENSIVELY WILL THIS OR OTHER TECHNIQUES INVOLVE HARRASSMENT OF LEGITIMATE OPPOSITION

ELEMENTS? CAN ABUSES OF ACCEPTED NORMS OF DETENTION AND INTERROGATION BE ANTICIPATED?

5. YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE AND ANY OTHER ASPECTS YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE ARE REQUIRED BY EXDIS MESSAGE NLT OOB APRIL 28.

6. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE IDB DIRECTORS WILL BE MEETING AGAIN ON THE ISSUE THIS WEEK AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

7. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS THAT THE GOES NOT SENSE THE USG'S SPECIAL CONCERN IN THESE MATTERS. THE USG HAS NO INTENTION OF GETTING OUT IN FRONT ON THE MATTER OF POST-PONING OR RELOCATING THIS MEETING. WE REALIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACT SUCH ACTION COULD HAVE ON OUR ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR.

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PAGE 04 STATE 093806

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